

FLORIDA ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INCENTIVES AND LAWS



Florida is the proud home of the Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition.

Overview

The main state-wide incentives for private sector alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in Florida are the tax exemptions for electric vehicles (EVs). In Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach counties, the Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition operates a low-interest revolving loan fund for AFVs, with a maximum loan amount of \$5,000 to \$30,000 per vehicle, depending on vehicle type and size. The State Energy Office is also using \$2 million in oil overcharge funds to assist state agencies in meeting alternative fuel fleet requirements by paying for conversion or incremental costs for AFVs.

State Incentives

The State Energy Office has allocated \$2.5 million to the Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition for a low-interest revolving loan fund for AFVs for public and private fleets. The private sector has promised matching funds for infrastructure development. The loans are available to private and public sector fleets to finance the incremental costs to convert or purchase a vehicle that operates on an Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) defined alternative fuel rather than on gasoline. The maximum loan amount for a vehicle is between \$5,000 and \$30,000, depending on vehicle type and size. The total loan amount may not exceed \$500,000. Loan repayment will be based on the estimated savings while the vehicle is operating on the alternative fuel. Pre-application worksheets and loan applications are available from the Gold Coast Clean Cities Coordinator at (954) 985-4416.

The State Energy Office has been provided with \$2 million in oil overcharge funds to assist state agencies in meeting alternative fuel fleet requirements. The funds will be used to pay for the cost of vehicle conversion or the incremental cost for an AFV over a gasoline or diesel-powered vehicle. The State Energy Office has \$1.1 million available for grants to local governments in the Gold Coast for AFVs. For more information, call Jan Rickey at the Florida Energy Office at (904) 488-2475.

Utility/Private Incentives

People's Gas offers technical assistance and refueling sites for natural gas vehicle operators. Contact Keith Gruetzmacher at (813) 272-0034 for more information.

City of Sunrise/Gas Systems offers an incentive of \$300 worth of fuel per vehicle to private fleets or individuals that sign up to use their public compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations. Incentives must be used within the first 180 days after signing up. For additional information, contact Peter Helmich at (954) 572-2343.

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Laws & Regulations

EVs purchased between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 2000 are exempt from sales tax. EVs are also protected from insurance surcharges based on factors such as new technology, passenger payload, weight-to-horsepower ratio, or types of material used to manufacture the vehicle. AFVs are exempt from emission inspection requirements.

House Bill 1317 exempts state and local government AFV fleets from the decal fee.

Senate Bill 584 (1993) exempts certain suppliers of CNG from regulation as a motor fuel. This exemption does not apply to utilities regulated under the Florida Public Service Commission.

Executive Order 91-253 established a clean fuels pilot program and encourages the state to implement a program to convert its fleet to alternative fuels. By 2000, all state fleet vehicles must operate on the “most efficient, least polluting” alternative fuels.

The Governor signed Executive Order 93-278, creating the Gold Coast Clean Cities Coalition. The coalition attained Clean Cities designation in May 1994.

Florida State Statute 403.706(4)(b) gives county governments waste reduction credits for using yard trash, clean wood waste, or paper waste as feedstocks in the production of clean-burning fuels such as ethanol.

Points of Contact

Florida Gold Coast Clean Cities Coordinator

Ping Chang (Interim) (954) 985-4416
South Florida Regional
Planning Council

Florida State Transportation Contact

Department of Transportation,
Office of Policy Planning
Rob Magee (904) 488-8006

Future Clean City

Florida SunCoast Clean Cities Coalition (Tampa/St. Petersburg)

John Bradley (813) 974-3120
University of South Florida

U.S. Department of Energy Regional Support Office

Steve Hortin (404) 347-0239
Angela Young (404) 347-7143

U.S. Department of Transportation Contacts

Florida State Energy Office

Jan Rickey (904) 488-2475

Federal Highway Administration

Region 4
Andy Edwards (404) 347-4499

People's Gas

Keith Gruetzmacher (813) 272-0034

Federal Transit Administration

Region 4
Alex McNeil (404) 562-3500

City of Sunrise/Gas Systems

Peter Helmich (954) 572-2343

General Services Administration

Regional Fleet Manager

Region 4
Jill Stang (404) 331-5150

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Miami Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mike Moore (305) 375-4507

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Pollution Prevention Coordinator

Region 4
Connie Roberts (404) 562-9084

Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Frank Kalpakis (813) 272-5940